

Eastern Region - 2714 N. Mayfair - Spokane, WA 99207 - (509) 324-6000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact: Al Gilson, Public Information Officer, (509) 324-6015

State Route 21/Keller Ferry service to be disrupted on Thursday, June 6 as repairs are made

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will be performing some unscheduled repairs on the Keller Ferry, which crosses the Columbia River on State Route 21. The ferry will be out of service beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday June 6, 2002. Service is expected to resume at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2002.

Service crews will be replacing one of the ferry's two engines with a recently rebuilt unit.

During this one-day maintenance period, motorists are advised to seek alternative state routes. North/south traffic may use SR 155 via SR 174 through Coulee Dam, west of the Keller Ferry.

The vessel, *Martha S.*, also known as the Keller Ferry, has been in continuous service since 1949. The Ferry crosses the Columbia River on State Route 21 at its confluence with the Sanpoil River from Ferry County and the Colville Indian Reservation on the north back to Lincoln County on the south. The ferry has a top travel speed of 12 miles per hour, taking the ferry about 10 minutes to cross the river. Approximately 60,000 vehicles travel on the Keller Ferry each year. The free ferry operates seven days a week, 18 hours a day, from 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

####